



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 15, 2007

S. 1257

District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on June 13, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1257 would expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives from 435 to 437 beginning with the 111th Congress. The legislation would provide the District of Columbia with one permanent Representative and add one additional new Member. Under S. 1257, the seat would initially be assigned to the state of Utah and then would be reallocated based on the next Congressional apportionment following the 2010 census.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by about \$200,000 in 2009 and by about \$2 million over the 2008-2017 period. In addition, implementing the bill would have discretionary costs of about \$1 million in 2009 and about \$7 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the availability of the appropriated funds.

S. 1257 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1257 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars												
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008- 2012	2008- 2017	

CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING

New Representative's Salary and Benefits

Estimated Budget Authority	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	2
Estimated Outlays	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	2

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

New Representative's Office and Administrative Expenses

Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	17
Estimated Outlays	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	17

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted this year and that spending will follow historical patterns for Congressional office spending, beginning in 2009.

The legislation would permanently expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives by two to 437 Members. The new representatives would take office on the same day beginning with the 111th Congress. One new Member would represent the District of Columbia and the other would be a Representative for the state of Utah until the next apportionment based on the 2010 census. The District of Columbia currently has a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives. S. 1257 would establish voting representation for the conversion of the District's delegate to Representative and would not add significant costs since the position is already funded with the same salary and administrative support as other Representatives.

Direct Spending

Enacting S. 1257 would increase direct spending for the salary and associated benefits for the new representative, beginning with a new Member from the state of Utah until the next apportionment based on the 2010 census. CBO estimates that the increase in direct spending

for the Congressional salary and benefits would be about \$2 million over the 2008-2017 period. That estimate assumes that the current Congressional salary of \$165,200 would be adjusted for inflation. With benefits, the 2008 cost would be about \$200,000.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

Based on the current administrative and expense allowances available for Members and other typical Congressional office costs, CBO estimates that the addition of a new Member would cost about \$1 million in fiscal year 2009 and about \$7 million over the 2008-2012 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1257 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 16, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1433, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 15, 2007, and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 13, 2007. The three pieces of legislation are similar in that they all expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives. Under H.R. 1433, the new Members would take office during the 110th Congress. Under the Senate bill, membership in the House of Representatives would be expanded beginning with the 111th Congress. The cost estimates reflect that difference.

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